

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF  
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA,  
Bar No. 032936**

**Respondent.**

**PDJ 2023-9041**

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER**

**(State Bar No. 22-0432)**

**FILED AUGUST 1, 2023**

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge accepted the parties' Agreement for Discipline by Consent submitted pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Larry Ruhl-Guaita, Bar No. 032936, is suspended from the practice of law in Arizona for two years for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, effective 30 days from the date of this order. If Respondent is reinstated to the practice of law in the future, he shall be subject to terms of probation imposed in the reinstatement proceedings.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to Rule 72 Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., Respondent shall comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$1,200.00, within 30 days. There are no costs or expenses incurred by the office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge in these proceedings.

**DATED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie  
**Margaret H. Downie**  
**Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023, to:

Kelly J. Flood  
[LRO@staff.azbar.org](mailto:LRO@staff.azbar.org)

Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
[Ruhl.larry@gmail.com](mailto:Ruhl.larry@gmail.com)

by: SHunt

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF  
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA,  
Bar No. 032936**

**Respondent**

**PDJ 2023-9041**

**ORDER ACCEPTING  
AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE  
BY CONSENT**

(State Bar No. 22-0432)

**FILED AUGUST 1, 2023**

On July 25, 2023, the parties filed an Agreement for Discipline by Consent (“Agreement”) pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. The State Bar of Arizona is represented by Kelly J. Flood. Respondent Larry Ruhl-Guaita is self-represented. The Agreement resolves a formal complaint filed on May 11, 2023.

Contingent on approval of the proposed form of discipline, Mr. Ruhl-Guaita has voluntarily waived his right to an adjudicatory hearing, as well as all motions, defenses, objections, or requests that could be asserted. The complainant was notified of the Agreement and has advised that she has no objection to it. The Agreement details a factual basis in support of Mr. Ruhl-Guaita’s conditional admissions and is incorporated by reference. *See* Rule 57(a)(4), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

Mr. Ruhl-Guaita conditionally admits violating Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., ER 3.4(c) (knowing disobedience of court order), and ER 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice). As a sanction, the parties agree to a two-year suspension and

payment of costs to the State Bar.

Mr. Ruhl-Guaita has felony criminal charges pending against him in the Maricopa County Superior Court. After he failed to appear for a scheduled hearing, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Mr. Ruhl-Guaita is aware of the warrant, has chosen not to self-surrender, and is considered a fugitive from justice. The Agreement preserves the State Bar's right to pursue additional charges after the criminal matter is resolved, stating:

Because the underlying criminal matter has not been adjudicated, the State Bar has conditionally agreed to dismiss the allegations regarding the underlying criminal charges, and the violations [of] ERs 8.4(c), ER 8.4(b), without prejudice to pursue discipline if warranted after Respondent's criminal case has been adjudicated. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, after the underlying criminal case has been adjudicated, the Bar may pursue further discipline if warranted under the circumstances.

Sanctions imposed against lawyers "shall be determined in accordance with the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions*" ("ABA Standards"). Rule 58(k), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. In evaluating the propriety of an agreed-upon sanction, the PDJ considers the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct, and the existence of aggravating and mitigating factors.

Mr. Ruhl-Guaita violated duties owed to the profession, the legal system, and the public. His intentional actions have caused harm to the profession, the legal system, and the public. Two aggravating factors are present: dishonest or selfish motive and illegal conduct. The parties stipulate to four mitigating factors: absence of a prior disciplinary record;

personal and emotional problems;<sup>1</sup> good character or reputation; and imposition of other penalties or sanctions (Mr. Ruhl-Guaita forfeited his \$5,000.00 bond).

The Agreement cites ABA Standard 6.21, which provides that disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly violates a court order with the intent to benefit himself and causes serious or potentially serious interference with a legal proceeding. The parties agree, though, that in light of the mitigating factors, the presumptive sanction of disbarment should be mitigated to a two-year suspension.

Because the State Bar retains the ability to file further proceedings if Mr. Ruhl-Guaita is convicted of a crime in the pending proceedings, the PDJ will accept the negotiated agreement. It results in an immediate suspension from the practice of law and is, for now, adequate to protect the public.

**IT IS ORDERED** accepting the Agreement for Discipline by Consent. A final judgment and order is signed this date.

**DATED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie  
**Margaret H. Downie**  
**Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

---

<sup>1</sup> The parties filed, under seal, a report from a psychiatrist documenting certain emotional and mental health issues. However, the report is more than a year old. Moreover, the report states that, as of July 13, 2022, the psychiatrist intended to see Mr. Ruhl-Guaita “in follow-up consultation soon,” but no additional information has been provided regarding his current status or treatment. As such, the PDJ accords little weight to this mitigating factor.

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023, to:

Kelly J. Flood  
[LRO@staff.azbar.org](mailto:LRO@staff.azbar.org)

Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
[Ruhl.larry@gmail.com](mailto:Ruhl.larry@gmail.com)

by: SHunt

BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE

IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER OF  
THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,

LARRY RUHL-GUAITA,  
Bar No. 032936

**Respondent.**

PDJ 2023-9041

**ORDER SEALING EXHIBIT TO  
CONSENT AGREEMENT**

(State Bar No. 22-0432)

**FILED AUGUST 1, 2023**

Based on the State Bar's Motion to Submit Exhibit Under Seal, and good cause appearing,

**IT IS ORDERED** sealing Exhibit A to the Agreement for Discipline by Consent.

**DATED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023.

Margaret H. Downie

**Margaret H. Downie**

**Presiding Disciplinary Judge**

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023, to:

Kelly J. Flood  
[LRO@staff.azbar.org](mailto:LRO@staff.azbar.org)

Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
[Ruhl.larry@gmail.com](mailto:Ruhl.larry@gmail.com)

by: SHunt

Kelly J. Flood, Bar No. 019772  
Staff Bar Counsel  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266  
Telephone (602)340-7247  
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER  
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA  
Bar No. 032936**

Respondent.

**PO No. 2023-9041**

**MOTION TO SUBMIT EXHIBIT  
UNDER SEAL**

State Bar File: 22-0432

The State Bar of Arizona, through undersigned counsel, hereby submits to the Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona (PDJ) a request to submit the attached exhibit to the parties' consent agreement under seal, pursuant to Rule 70(g) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The parties request that the following information be sealed from the Complainant and the public:

- Respondent's medical/mental health records, attached as Exhibit A



The reason for sealing the information is that the documents include private sensitive medical/mental health information which is not public under Rule 70(b)(13).

The parties request that the Respondent's medical/mental health records be sealed from the Complainant and the public.

A proposed Order is attached as Exhibit B.

**DATED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

**STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

/s/ Kelly J. Flood \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly J Flood  
Staff Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of  
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge  
of the Supreme Court of Arizona  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
This 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:

The Honorable Margaret H. Downie  
Presiding Disciplinary Judge  
Supreme Court of Arizona  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 102  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
E-mail: [officepdj@courts.az.gov](mailto:officepdj@courts.az.gov)

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:

Larry Ruhl-Guaita Esq  
PO BOX 1155  
TOLLESON, AZ 85353-1107  
Email: ruhl.larry@gmail.com  
Respondent

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by: /s/ Lori Palmer  
KJF/lp

**EXHIBIT A**

SEALED

## **EXHIBIT B**

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER  
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA  
Bar No. 032936**

Respondent.

**PO - 2023-9041**

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

State Bar File: 22-0432

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona having reviewed the parties' request to file Respondent's medical/mental health records under seal, and good cause appearing:

**IT IS ORDERED** the parties' request to file the records under seal is granted.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent's medical/mental health records be sealed and kept confidential from Complainant and the public pursuant to Rule 70(g), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct.

Pre-complaint orders sealing material do not seal such material post-complaint if the material is sought to be used or referred to in subsequent pleadings or in any hearing. In such circumstance, the parties are reminded a formal request for protective order with specificity must be filed with the material sought to be sealed and submitted for in-camera review.

Sealed material shall be opened and viewed only by an order of the committee, the presiding disciplinary judge, a hearing panel, the board or the court for use by such body and the parties in pending proceedings, and otherwise only upon notice to and an opportunity to be heard by the parties and the witness or other person who is the subject of the information. A party aggrieved by an order relating to a request for a protective order may seek review by filing a petition for special action with the court.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023.

---

**Margaret H. Downie, Presiding Disciplinary  
Judge**

Original filed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
July, 2023 with:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24th St., Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

Copy of the foregoing mailed/mailed  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023, to:

Larry Ruhl-Guaita Esq

PO BOX 1155  
TOLLESON, AZ 85353-1107  
Email: ruhl.larry@gmail.com  
Respondent

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered  
this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
KJF/ism

Kelly J. Flood, Bar No. 019772  
Staff Bar Counsel  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266  
Telephone (602)340-7247  
Email: LRO@staff.azbar.org

Larry Ruhl-Guaita, Bar No. 032936  
PO BOX 1155  
TOLLESON, AZ 85353-1107  
Telephone 602-703-3398  
Email: ruhl.larry@gmail.com  
Respondent

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER  
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA  
Bar No. 032936**

Respondent.

**PDJ 2023-9041**

State Bar File No. **22-0432**

**AGREEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE  
BY CONSENT**

The State Bar of Arizona, and Respondent Larry Ruhl-Guaita who has chosen not to seek the assistance of counsel, hereby submit their Agreement for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. A probable cause order was entered on April 20, 2023. A formal complaint was filed May 11, 2023. Respondent



voluntarily waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, unless otherwise ordered, and waives all motions, defenses, objections or requests which have been made or raised, or could be asserted thereafter, if the conditional admissions and proposed form of discipline is approved.

Pursuant to Rule 53(b)(3), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., notice of this agreement was provided to the Complainant by telephone on July 12, 2023. Complainant has been notified of the opportunity to file a written objection to the agreement, but Complainant has stated that she has no objection to the terms of this agreement.

Respondent conditionally admits that his conduct, as set forth below, violated Rule 42, ERs 3.4(c), and 8.4(d). Upon acceptance of this agreement, Respondent agrees to accept imposition of the following discipline: **two (2) years Suspension**. Respondent also agrees to pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding, within 30 days from the date of this order. If costs are not paid within the 30 days interest will begin to accrue at the legal rate.<sup>1</sup> The State Bar's Statement of Costs and Expenses is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent understands that the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding include the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona, the Disciplinary Clerk, the Probable Cause Committee, the Presiding Disciplinary Judge and the Supreme Court of Arizona.

## **FACTS**

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Respondent was licensed to practice law in Arizona on May 23, 2016.

#### **COUNT ONE (File no. 22-0432/Marshall )**

2. Felony criminal charges were filed against Respondent in Maricopa County Superior Court, CR2021-145562.
3. Respondent failed to appear at hearing in his criminal case and a bench warrant issued.
4. Respondent has chosen not to self-surrender, thereby declining to appear for trial, resulting in Respondent's status as a fugitive from justice.

### **CONDITIONAL ADMISSIONS**

Respondent's admissions are being tendered in exchange for the form of discipline stated below and are submitted freely and voluntarily and not as a result of coercion or intimidation. Respondent conditionally admits that he violated Rule 42, Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., specifically ERs 3.4(c), and 8.4(d).

### **CONDITIONAL DISMISSALS**

Because the underlying criminal matter has not been adjudicated, the State Bar has conditionally agreed to dismiss the allegations regarding the underlying

criminal charges, and the violations ERs 8.4(c), ER 8.4(b), without prejudice to pursue discipline if warranted after Respondent's criminal case has been adjudicated. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, after the underlying criminal case has been adjudicated, the Bar may pursue further discipline if warranted under the circumstances.

### **RESTITUTION**

Restitution is not an issue in this matter.

### **SANCTION**

Respondent and the State Bar of Arizona agree that based on the facts and circumstances of this matter, as set forth above, the following sanctions are appropriate: **Suspension of two (2) years.**

If Respondent violates any of the terms of this agreement, the State Bar may bring further discipline proceedings.

### **LEGAL GROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF SANCTION**

In determining an appropriate sanction, the parties consulted the American Bar Association's *Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (Standards)* pursuant to Rule 57(a)(2)(E). The *Standards* are designed to promote consistency in the imposition of sanctions by identifying relevant factors that courts should consider

and then applying those factors to situations where lawyers have engaged in various types of misconduct. *Standard 1.3, In re Pappas*, 159 Ariz. 516, 768 P.2d 1161 (1988). The *Standards* provide guidance with respect to an appropriate sanction in this matter.

In determining an appropriate sanction, the Court considers the duty violated, the lawyer's mental state, the actual or potential injury caused by the misconduct and the existence of aggravating and mitigating factors. *Standard 3.0*.

The parties agree that the following *Standard 6.2 Abuse of the Legal Process* is the appropriate *Standard* given the facts and circumstances of this matter: *Standard 6.21 Abuse of the Legal Process* provides that disbarment is generally appropriate when a lawyer knowingly violates a court order with the intent to benefit himself and causes serious or potentially serious interference with a legal proceeding. Here, Respondent has acknowledged that he is violating an order requiring his appearance in order to avoid appearing for trial in the criminal case against him.

### **The duty violated**

Respondent's conduct violated his duty to the profession, the legal system and the public. Lawyers are expected to abide by the law, and Respondent's conduct has resulted in an indefinite delay of the criminal case.

**The lawyer's mental state**

Respondent knowingly is in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct by failing to obey a court order for his appearance.

**The extent of the actual or potential injury**

There is actual harm to the profession, the legal system and the public, because Respondent is indefinitely avoiding compliance with a court order to avoid appearing for trial in his criminal case.

**Aggravating and mitigating circumstances**

The presumptive sanction is disbarment. The parties conditionally agree that the following aggravating and mitigating factors should be considered:

**In aggravation:**

- a) 9.22(b) dishonest or selfish motive: Respondent is violating a court order for his own benefit; and
- b) 9.22(k) illegal conduct: Respondent is in violation of a court order for his appearance.

**In mitigation:**

- a) 9.32(a) absence of prior disciplinary record;
- b) 9.32(c) personal or emotional problems: Respondent has submitted a medical record that is being filed under seal in support of this mitigator;
- c) 9.32(g) good character or reputation: Respondent has submitted letters of support that are appended hereto; and
- d) 9.32(k) imposition of other sanctions: Respondent forfeited the \$5,000 appearance bond he paid.

**Discussion**

The presumptive sanction should be mitigated to **a two (2) year Suspension.**

Based on the *Standards* and in light of the facts and circumstances of this matter, the parties conditionally agree that the sanction set forth above is within the range of appropriate sanction and will serve the purposes of lawyer discipline.

**CONCLUSION**

The object of lawyer discipline is not to punish the lawyer, but to protect the public, the profession and the administration of justice. In re *Peasley*, 208 Ariz. 27 (2004). Recognizing that determination of the appropriate sanction is the prerogative of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the State Bar and Respondent believe that the

objectives of discipline will be met by the imposition of the proposed sanction of Suspension and the imposition of costs and expenses. A proposed form of order is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

**DATED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023

**STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly J. Flood  
Staff Bar Counsel

**This agreement, with conditional admissions, is submitted freely and voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation. I acknowledge my duty under the Rules of the Supreme Court with respect to discipline and reinstatement. I understand these duties may include notification of clients, return of property and other rules pertaining to suspension.**

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
Respondent

prerogative of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, the State Bar and Respondent believe that the objectives of discipline will be met by the imposition of the proposed sanction of Suspension and the imposition of costs and expenses. A proposed form of order is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 2023


**STATE BAR OF ARIZONA**

---

Kelly J. Flood  
Staff Bar Counsel

**This agreement, with conditional admissions, is submitted freely and voluntarily and not under coercion or intimidation. I acknowledge my duty under the Rules of the Supreme Court with respect to discipline and reinstatement. I understand these duties may include notification of clients, return of property and other rules pertaining to suspension.**

**DATED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

  
Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
Respondent



Approved as to form and content



Maret Vessella  
Chief Bar Counsel

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of  
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge  
of the Supreme Court of Arizona  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:


The Honorable Margaret H. Downie  
Presiding Disciplinary Judge  
Supreme Court of Arizona  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 102  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
E-mail: [officepdj@courts.az.gov](mailto:officepdj@courts.az.gov)

Copy of the foregoing emailed  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:

Larry Ruhl-Guaita Esq  
PO BOX 1155  
TOLLESON, AZ 85353-1107  
Email: [ruhl.larry@gmail.com](mailto:ruhl.larry@gmail.com)  
Respondent

Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, to:

Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266

by:   
KJF/ism/lp

## **EXHIBIT A**

## Statement of Costs and Expenses

In the Matter of a Member of The State Bar of Arizona,  
Larry Ruhl-Guaita, Bar No. 032936, Respondent.

File No. 22-0432

### Administrative Expenses

The Supreme Court of Arizona has adopted a schedule of administrative expenses to be assessed in lawyer discipline. If the number of charges/complainants exceeds five, the assessment for the general administrative expenses shall increase by 20% for each additional charge/complainant where a violation is admitted or proven.

Factors considered in the administrative expense are time expended by staff bar counsel, paralegal, secretaries, typists, file clerks and messenger; and normal postage charges, telephone costs, office supplies and all similar factors generally attributed to office overhead. As a matter of course, administrative costs will increase based on the length of time it takes a matter to proceed through the adjudication process.

### *General Administrative Expenses for above-numbered proceedings*

**\$1,200.00**

Additional costs incurred by the State Bar of Arizona in the processing of this disciplinary matter, and not included in administrative expenses, are itemized below.

### Additional Costs

Total for additional costs \$ 0.00

TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED \$1,200.00

## **EXHIBIT B**

**BEFORE THE PRESIDING DISCIPLINARY JUDGE**

**IN THE MATTER OF A MEMBER  
OF THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA,**

**LARRY RUHL-GUAITA,  
Bar No. 032936,**

**PDJ 2023-9041**

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND  
ORDER**

State Bar No. 22-0432

The Presiding Disciplinary Judge of the Supreme Court of Arizona, having reviewed the Agreement for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Rule 57(a), Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., accepts the parties' proposed agreement.

Accordingly:

**IT IS ORDERED** that Respondent, **Larry Ruhl-Guaita**, is Suspended for two (2) years for his conduct in violation of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct, as outlined in the consent documents, effective 30 days from the date of this order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, upon reinstatement, Respondent shall be subject to any terms of probation imposed as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent shall be subject to any additional terms imposed by the Presiding Disciplinary Judge as a result of reinstatement hearings held.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to Rule 72 Ariz. R. Sup. Ct., Respondent shall immediately comply with the requirements relating to notification of clients and others.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent pay the costs and expenses of the State Bar of Arizona in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent shall pay the costs and expenses incurred by the disciplinary clerk and/or Presiding Disciplinary Judge's Office in connection with these disciplinary proceedings in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_, within 30 days from the date of service of this Order.

**DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023.

---

**Margaret H. Downie, Presiding Disciplinary  
Judge**

Original filed with the Disciplinary Clerk of  
the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge  
of the Supreme Court of Arizona  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023.

Copies of the foregoing mailed/emailed  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023, to:

Larry Ruhl-Guaita  
PO BOX 1155  
TOLLESON, AZ 85353-1107  
Email: [ruhl.larry@gmail.com](mailto:ruhl.larry@gmail.com)  
Respondent

Copy of the foregoing emailed/hand-delivered  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2023, to:

Kelly J Flood  
Staff Bar Counsel  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266  
Email: [LRO@staff.azbar.org](mailto:LRO@staff.azbar.org)

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Lawyer Regulation Records Manager  
State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-6266



by: \_\_\_\_\_

State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24<sup>th</sup> St. #100  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
Attn: Presiding Disciplinary Judge, Margaret H. Downie

Re: Mitigation letter in support of Larry Ruhl-Guaita's Good Character

Dear Judge Margaret H. Downie,

I am writing this letter to relay my experiences of Larry Ruhl-Guaita's good ethical character, which I believe should be considered as a strong mitigating factor in this disciplinary proceeding. I have known Larry for six years and throughout that time he has consistently exhibited good moral and ethical character in both his personal life and in performing his duties as a licensed attorney.

I first met Larry when I started working at Perkins Coie in 2017. There we both worked in the document review department at the Phoenix office of the firm. From the very beginning, Larry's good character was exceedingly apparent. He had worked for the firm for awhile before I joined and he generously devoted his time to guiding me and offering advice to assist in my transition into the firm. Throughout this process Larry consistently exhibited a strong ethical mindset and approach to his life and specifically in his career as an attorney.

Over the years I worked as a colleague of Larry, his devotion to our work and clients made him a leader in our office. Many people looked to him as an example of how to ethically and effectively represent our clients. His consistent dedication to upholding the standards necessary to ensure our client's needs were met effectively and efficiently made him a paragon of ethical attorney representation.

Like many people Larry has had some personal struggles recently which have put him in this situation. However he is cognizant of this, and is actively working towards remedying the situation and ensuring he upholds the standards of being a member of the Arizona State Bar. Larry has a deep love for this profession and will continue to focus on ensuring his ethical character is impeccable.

I hope you will consider Larry's good character as a strong mitigating factor in this disciplinary proceeding. Larry is a good person as well as a good attorney who going forward will be a shining example of an Arizona attorney.

Sincerely,

Brandon Journell, Esq.  
Arizona State Bar Number 028668

State Bar of Arizona  
4201 N 24th St #100,  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
Attn: Presiding Disciplinary Judge, Margaret H. Downie

Subject: Mitigation Support Letter for Larry Ruhl's Good Character Reputation

Hon. Margaret H. Downie,

I am writing this letter in support of Larry Ruhl, who is currently involved in disciplinary proceedings before the State Bar of Arizona. I have personally known Mr. Ruhl for over 30 years and can speak to his good reputation.

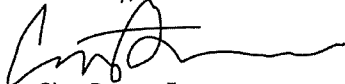
Mr. Ruhl has consistently demonstrated ethical conduct, integrity, and professionalism throughout his legal career. He has also consistently shown a deep sense of responsibility and empathy towards their clients. Mr. Ruhl demonstrated his commitment to his clients as a Rule 38 student-attorney defending criminal clients when he worked for the ASU Criminal Justice Clinic. He was my roommate at the time, and he would obsess over the facts of his cases as he worked toward achieving justice for his clients. He carried his passion for client-focused to his job as a document review attorney. Mr. Ruhl would dedicate much of his personal time to providing excellent, prompt, attentive legal services which I am sure his clients, requiring urgent assistance, greatly appreciated.

I believe Mr. Ruhl to be an honest person. Mr. Ruhl does not shy away from the truth, for better or for worse. I value his candor and open and honest communication style. In his personal life this quality can make him something of an acquired taste, and sometimes a tough pill to swallow, but I believe that in his professional life, his clients value his direct communication as it ensures they are well-informed and supported throughout the legal process.

The last few years have been very tough for Mr. Ruhl as he has struggled to cope with depression, anxiety, and worsening mental health and the mistakes that have resulted from his impaired judgement. That said, I believe that at his core Mr. Ruhl is a good person and attorney who does not have ill will toward anyone. I also believe that he has turned a corner in his life and is committed to taking responsibility for his mental health, confronting and correcting his mistakes, and rehabilitating himself so that he can move forward as a happier, healthier, better person. It is also worth noting that despite Mr. Ruhl's struggles with his mental health, he has, until the ultimate mental health crisis giving rise to this proceeding, enjoyed a career free of other criminal or professional disciplinary history. At a time in his life when Mr. Ruhl has stepped back from the precipice, he needs support and an opportunity to make things right, not a hard push over the edge.

I respectfully request that you consider the mitigating factor of Larry Ruhl's good character and reputation in the current proceedings. I am confident that given the opportunity, Mr. Ruhl can once again be a valuable asset to the legal profession. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gian Duran', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gian Duran, Esq.  
Arizona State Bar Number 028933